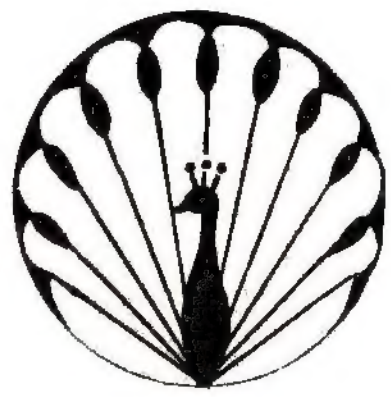
CHATURANG KATHA

CHEMMEEN

No. 506 PICTORIAL CLASSICS FOR YOUNG AND OLD Rs. 2



CHATURANG KATHA

Thakazhi Sivashankaran Pillai's *Chemmeen* is a powerful story about the fisherfolk of Kerala, their life and work, their hopes and dreams.

Karuthamma and Pareekutti are childhood sweethearts whose love cannot prosper within the strict moral code that operates in the fishing community. Torn between a feeling that is too great to suppress and a society that will not permit self-indulgence, Karuthamma and Pareekutti face tragedy.

The story is retold from the original Malayalam novel which is accepted already as a regional classic.

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Script: Harimohan Sharma & Lakshmi Lal **Illustrations: C. M. Vitankar**

IN THE FISHING VILLAGE OF NIRKUNNAM IN KERALA, THERE LIVED A POOR FISHERMAN, CHEMBAN KUNJU, WITH HIS WIFE CHAKKI. THEY HAD TWO DAUGHTERS—KARUTHAMMA AND PANCHAMI. LIKE ALL FISHERFOLK OF KERALA, THEY HAD GREAT FAITH IN KATALAMMA, GODDESS OF THE SEA, PROTECTOR OF THE GOOD AND PUNISHER OF THE EVIL. SHE LIKED HER MEN TO BE BRAVE AND MORAL, AND HER WOMEN TO BE PURE AND CHASTE.

ONE DAY, AFTER A CHILDISH QUARREL WITH HER SISTER, PANCHAMI RAN TO HER MOTHER.

MOTHER, KARUTHAMMA WAS SEEN LAUGHING WITH PAREEKUTTI THE MUSLIM TRADER ON THE SEASHORE.

I MUST SPEAK TO HER. SHE IS NO LONGER A CHILD.

WHAT IS THIS I HEAR?

I ONLY ASKED HIM FOR THE MONEY THAT WE NEED TO BUY THE BOAT AND THE NET.

REMEMBER MY CHILD THE WEALTH AND PROSPERITY OF THE MEN AT SEA LIE IN THE PURITY OF THEIR WOMEN ON SHORE. MAY YOU NEVER BE THE CAUSE OF THE RUIN OF THE SEAFRONT.

KARUTHAMMA WAS SURPRISED BY THE NOTE OF GENUINE CONCERN IN HER MOTHER'S VOICE.

CHAKKI DECIDED TO SPEAK TO KUNJU.

IF YOU DON'T GET KARUTHAMMA MARRIED SOON, SHE MIGHT GO ASTRAY.

I'LL GET HER MARRIED BEFORE THAT.

BUT WHO'LL MARRY HER WITHOUT A DOWRY?

WAIT AND SEE. LET ME GET MY BOAT.

CHEMBAN KUNJU MADE HIS PLANS. THAT VERY NIGHT, SOME BASKETS OF DRIED FISH WERE BROUGHT TO KUNJU'S HOUSE BY PAREEKUTTI—

PAREEKUTTI WAS FINANCING HIM DISCREETLY.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD KNEW NOTHING, BUT KARUTHAMMA KNEW—AND WAS UNHAPPY.

THE FISH I GAVE YOUR FATHER WILL BRING MONEY FOR HIS BOAT AND NET.

SHE ALSO KNEW THAT THE DAUGHTER OF CHEMBAN KUNJU COULD NEVER MARRY A MUSLIM TRADER.

WHY, YOU ARE CRYING! IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME, I SHALL GO AWAY. BUT SURELY, YOU CARE FOR ME?

YES, I DO. BUT...

AT HOME, CHAKKI WAS BUBBLING OVER WITH EXCITEMENT.

BY THE GRACE OF GODDESS KATALAMMA, WE SHALL SOON HAVE OUR OWN BOAT.

WHY ARE YOU EXPLOITING POOR PAREEKUTTI FOR THE SAKE OF A BOAT?

WE ARE NOT EXPLOITING HIM. WE WILL PAY HIM BACK. BUT WHAT IS HE TO YOU THAT YOU SHOULD BE SO AGITATED?

HE IS A GOOD BOY AND I HOPE HE WILL NOT BE SWINDLED. THAT'S ALL.

ON THE SEAFRONT, KUNJU'S NEW BOAT GAVE RISE TO ALL KINDS OF SPECULATION.

WHERE DID HE GET THE MONEY?

HOW COULD HE HAVE SAVED SO MUCH? WE WORK JUST AS HARD AS HE DOES.

THE BOAT WAS AN EXTRAVAGANCE THAT CHEMBAN KUNJU COULD ILL AFFORD. THERE WERE OTHER MORE PRESSING MATTERS.

THE HEADMAN OF OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT ALLOW SUCH A THING.

IF YOU ASK ME, THE MONEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SPENT ON HIS DAUGHTER'S MARRIAGE.

WHAT CAN THE HEADMAN DO?

HE COULD SEND THEM PACKING.

AS SPOKESMEN OF THE COMMUNITY, RAMANMUPPAN, AYYANKUNJU AND TWO OTHERS WENT TO SEE THE HEADMAN.

SIR, CHEMBAN KUNJU HAS BOUGHT A BOAT, WHILE HIS GROWN-UP DAUGHTER REMAINS UN-MARRIED.

HE NEVER SOUGHT MY PERMISSION TO BUY THE BOAT.

WHAT DO YOU ADVISE US TO DO?

LET HIM GET THE BOAT. BUT NO ONE SHOULD WORK FOR HIM WITHOUT ASKING ME.

IN A FEW DAYS, KUNJU'S BOAT ARRIVED ON THE SEAFRONT. EVERY-ONE WENT TO SEE IT, AND SOME STAYED ON TO WORK ON IT. THE HEADMAN'S AUTHORITY WAS NO LONGER WHAT IT USED TO BE.

KUNJU HAS BOUGHT A FINE BOAT.

IT WAS THE BOAT OF THE CELEBRATED KANDANKORAN—A FAMOUS BOAT IN ITS TIME.

WHEN CHEMBAN KUNJU WENT HOME, CHAKKI GAVE HIM THE VILLAGE GOSSIP.

WHY DIDN'T YOU GO TO THE HEADMAN BEFORE GETTING THE BOAT?

THE HEADMAN WOULD HAVE DEMANDED MONEY. I COULD NOT HAVE SPARED IT.

KUNJU'S BOAT WAS READY TO BE LAUNCHED. A SMALL FEAST WAS ORGANISED. KARUTHAMMA WAS OUT, INVITING PEOPLE. ON THE WAY HOME, SHE RAN INTO PAREEKUTTI.

WHY ARE YOU AVOIDING ME?

LET ME BE!

* THE SEASON OF SHRIMP, USUALLY OCCURRING ABOUT MID JULY.

AS THE BOATS DREW IN, THE WAITING TRADERS CROWDED ROUND. PAREEKUTTI WAS THE FIRST TO GO UP TO KUNJU.

WILL YOU TRADE YOUR CATCH WITH ME?

I MUST HAVE CASH DOWN.

I HAVE ONLY A LITTLE CASH. I WILL PAY YOU THE REST LATER.

SORRY, I CAN'T MAKE EXCEPTIONS.

WHEN THE TRANSACTIONS WERE OVER—

WHY DIDN'T YOU SELL HIM THE FISH? WHO HELPED US GET THE BOAT AND NET?

IF I HAD SOLD HIM THE FISH, HE WOULD HAVE DEDUCTED SOME OF THE MONEY THAT WE OWE HIM.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT HE HAS LOST HIS MONEY AS WELL AS YOUR TRADE?

HIS CURING YARD IS PRACTICALLY EMPTY. HE HAS NO MONEY.

IN PAREEKUTTI'S CURING YARD —
SON, YOU HAVE LOST EVERYTHING. TAKE UP SOME OTHER WORK ELSEWHERE.
FATHER, I HAVE BEEN TRADING FISH ON THIS WATER-FRONT EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE BOY. IT IS TOO LATE TO LEARN A NEW TRADE.
SUDDENLY, ONE DAY, THE COLOUR OF THE SEA CHANGED TO RED. SUPERSTITIOUS, THE FISHERMEN WOULD NOT PUT OUT TO SEA. THOSE WERE DIFFICULT DAYS. KUNJU, HOWEVER, DEFIED TRADITION AND FLOURISHED.
THE VILLAGERS ARE STARVING. THEY COME TO ME TO SELL OR MORTGAGE THEIR BELONGINGS.
YOU SEEM TO PROSPER WHEN OTHERS ARE RUNNING THROUGH THEIR SAVINGS.
YES, I AM A WISE MAN. I HAVE CASH IN MY HANDS. RAMANKUNJU'S BOAT IS GOING TO BE MINE WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

CHAKKI REJOICED IN HER NEW-FOUND WEALTH.

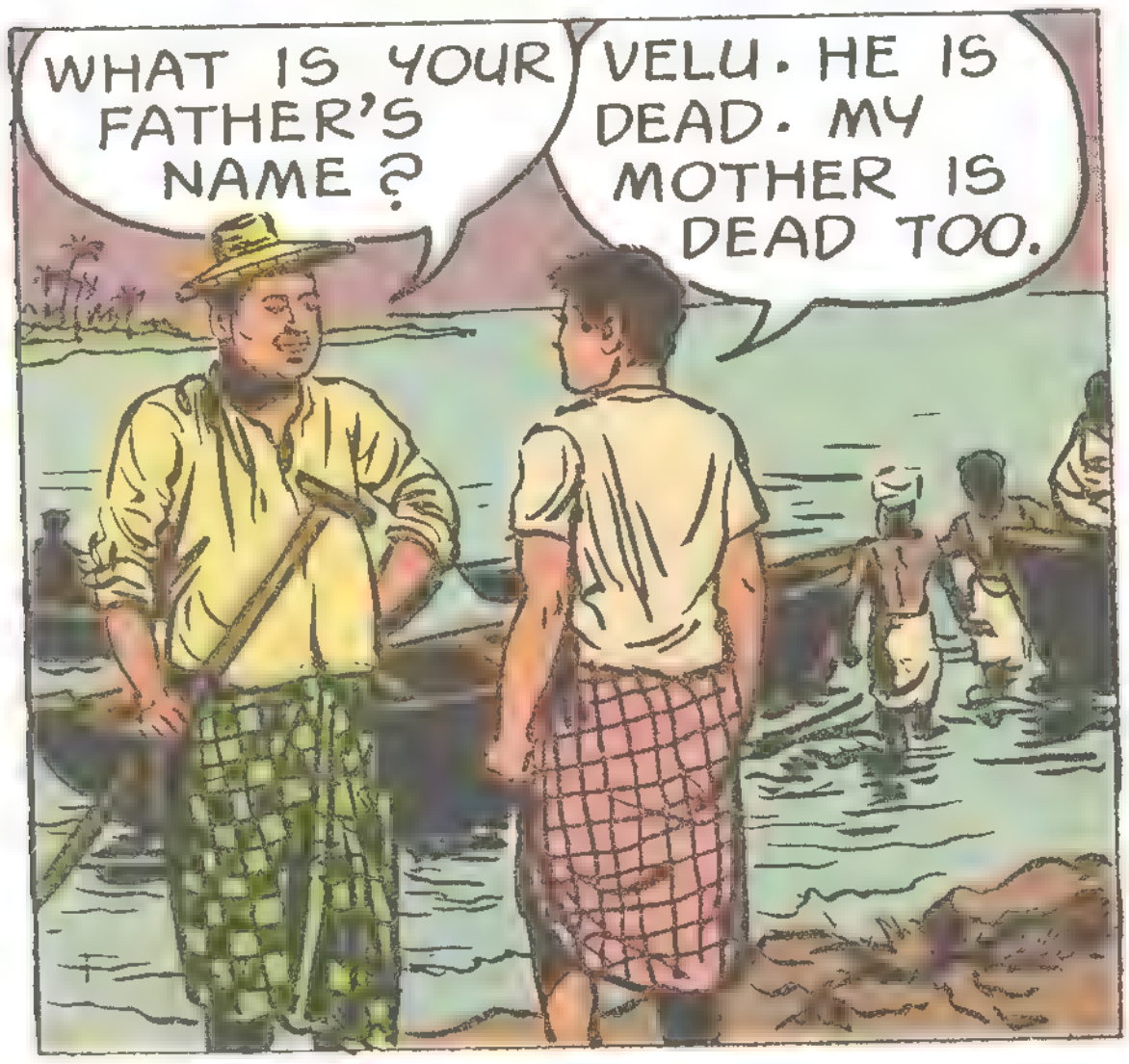
YOUR FATHER IS A RICH MAN NOW. I'LL PUT BY A LITTLE GOLD FOR YOUR WEDDING.

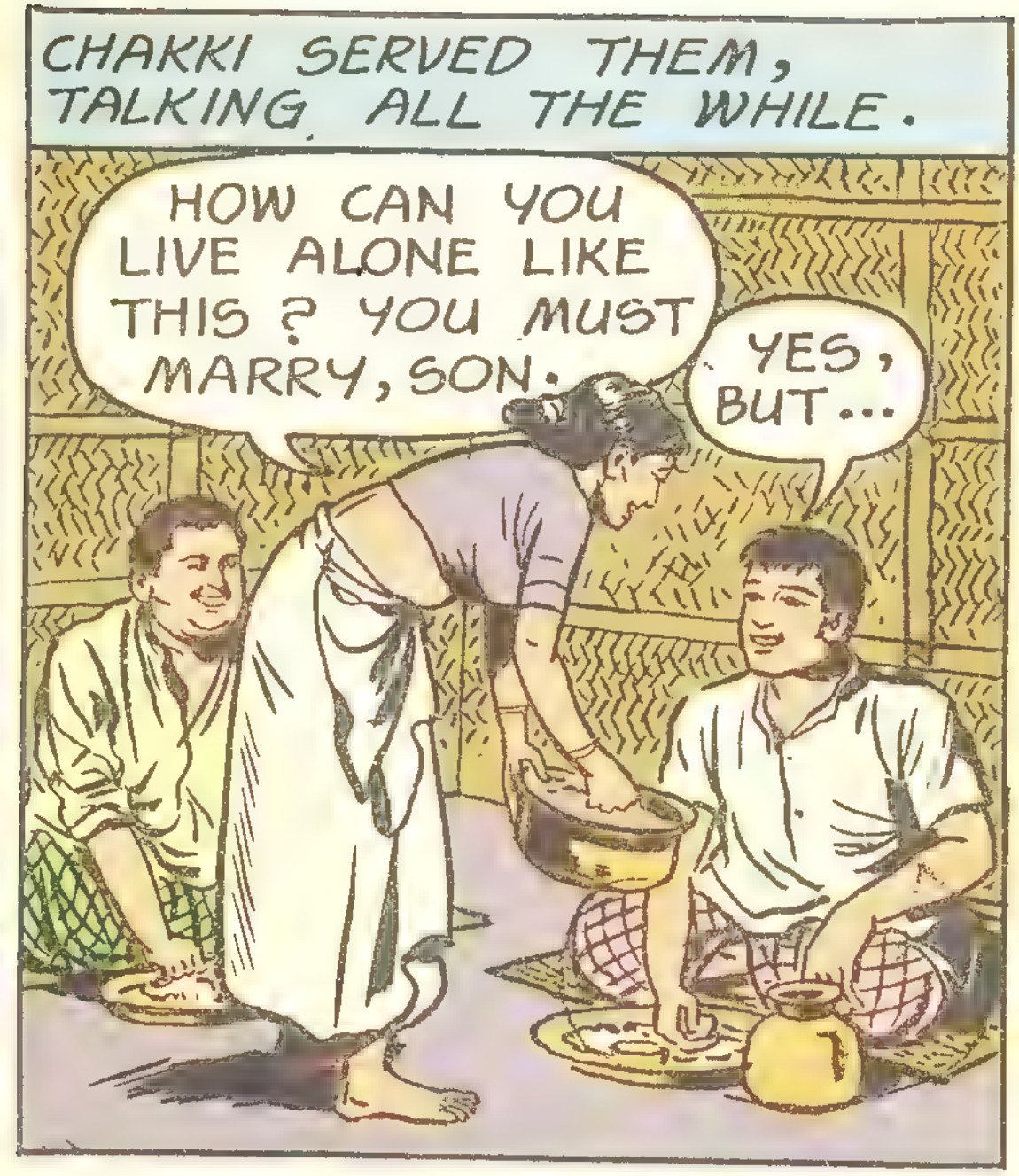
I WISH FATHER WOULD PAY PAREE-KUTTI — BUT I DOUBT IF HE WILL. THE SIGHT OF MONEY HAS CHANGED HIM.

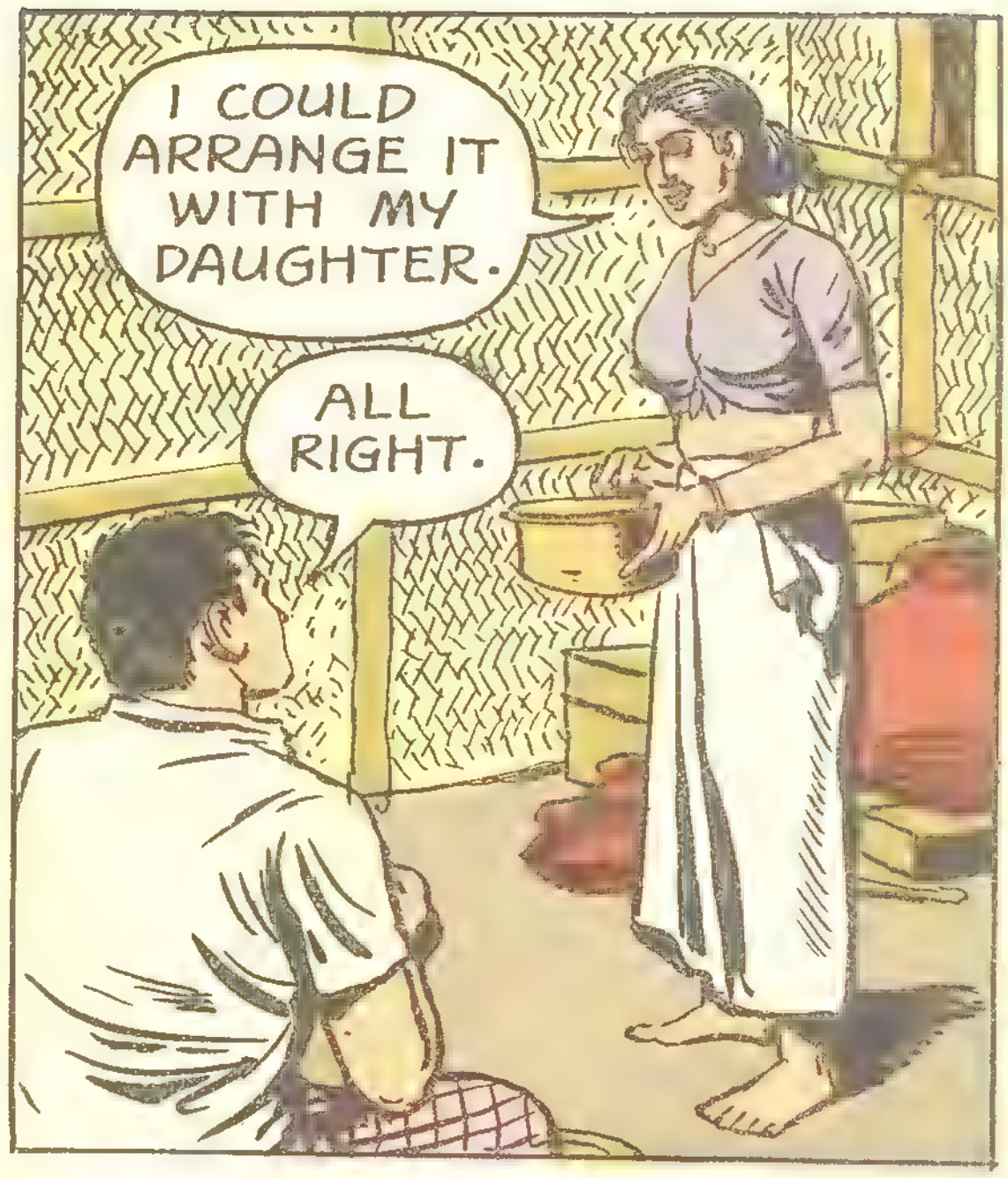
THERE WERE OTHER DEVELOPMENTS. ONE DAY, AT A BOAT RACE, THE FISHER-FOLK WATCHED AS KUNJU PITTED HIS STRENGTH AND SKILL AGAINST A YOUNG MAN FROM TRIKUNNAPUZHA. AS THE BOATS TOUCHED SHORE SIMULTANEOUSLY—

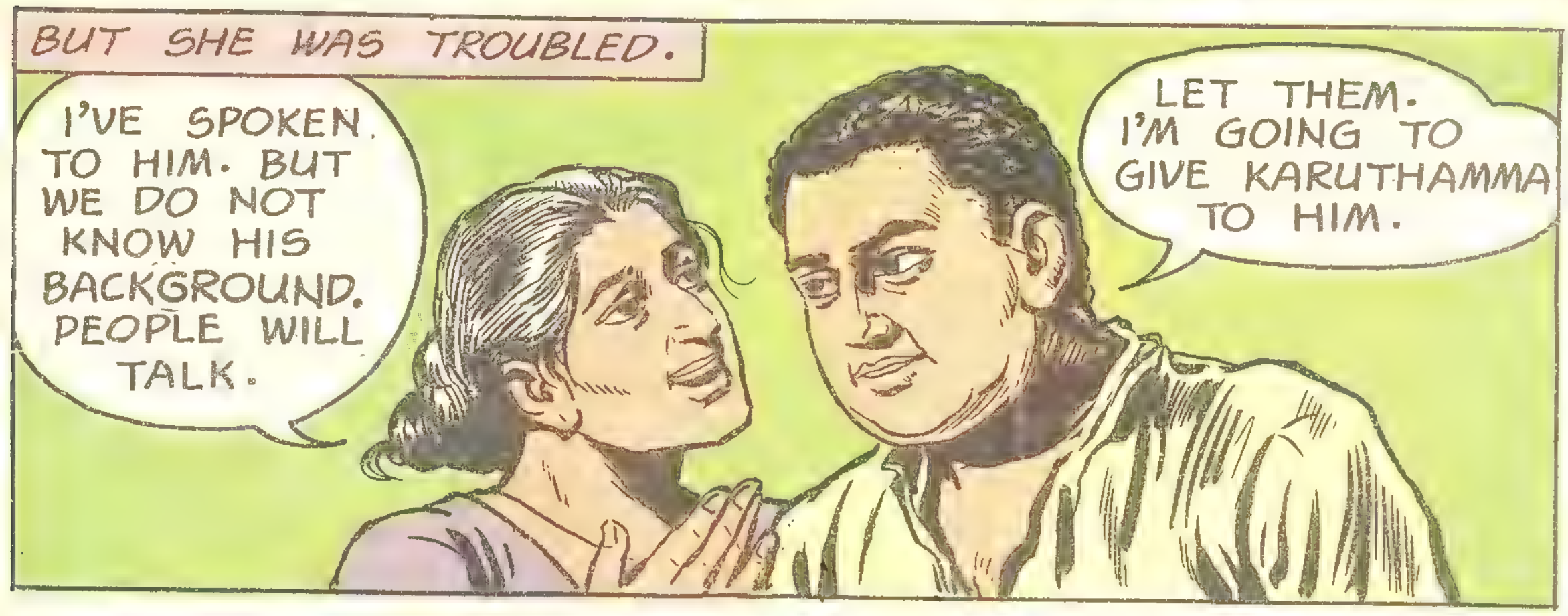
YOU ARE A REAL SEAGOER. WHAT IS YOUR NAME, SON?

MY NAME IS PALANI.




CHAKKI SERVED THEM, TALKING ALL THE WHILE.
HOW CAN YOU LIVE ALONE LIKE THIS ? YOU MUST MARRY, SON.
YES, BUT...


I COULD ARRANGE IT WITH MY DAUGHTER.
ALL RIGHT.


BUT SHE WAS TROUBLED.
I'VE SPOKEN TO HIM. BUT WE DO NOT KNOW HIS BACKGROUND. PEOPLE WILL TALK.
LET THEM. I'M GOING TO GIVE KARUTHAMMA TO HIM.

SOME DAYS LATER —
SO, AFTER ALL, I HAVE ACQUIRED THE SECOND BOAT.
NOW YOU SHOULD REPAY PAREEKUTTI.

YES, FATHER, GIVE HIM BACK THAT MONEY.
YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS.

KARUTHAMMA SPOKE HER MIND CLEARLY TO CHAKKI.

I WON'T MARRY TILL YOU RETURN THAT MONEY. AFTER ALL, HE GAVE THE MONEY BECAUSE I ASKED FOR IT.

YOU MUST GET MARRIED. WE WILL SETTLE THIS MATTER BEFORE THEN.

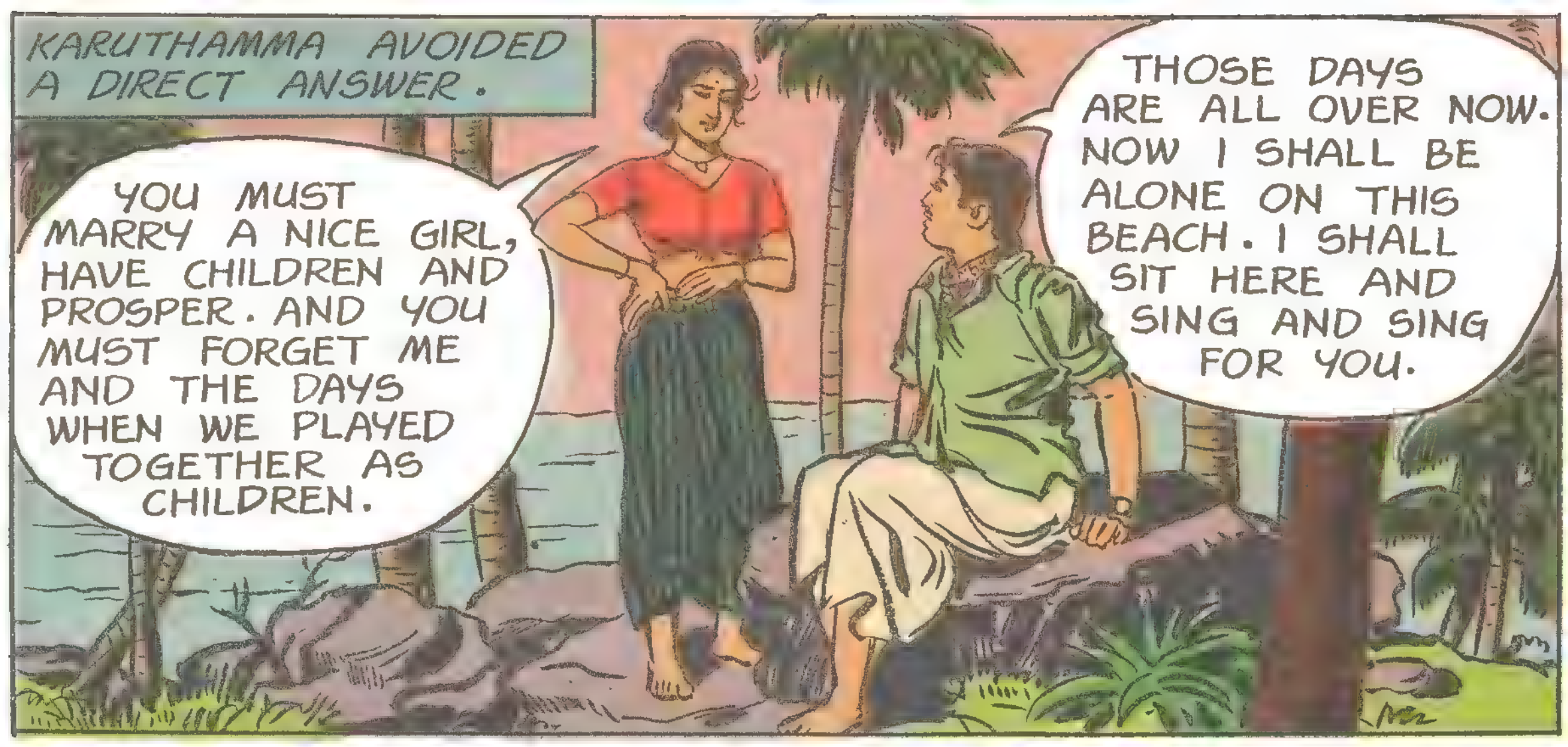
THE MONEY LAY HEAVY ON KARUTHAMMA'S CONSCIENCE. ONE DAY SHE SOUGHT PAREEKUTTI OUT.

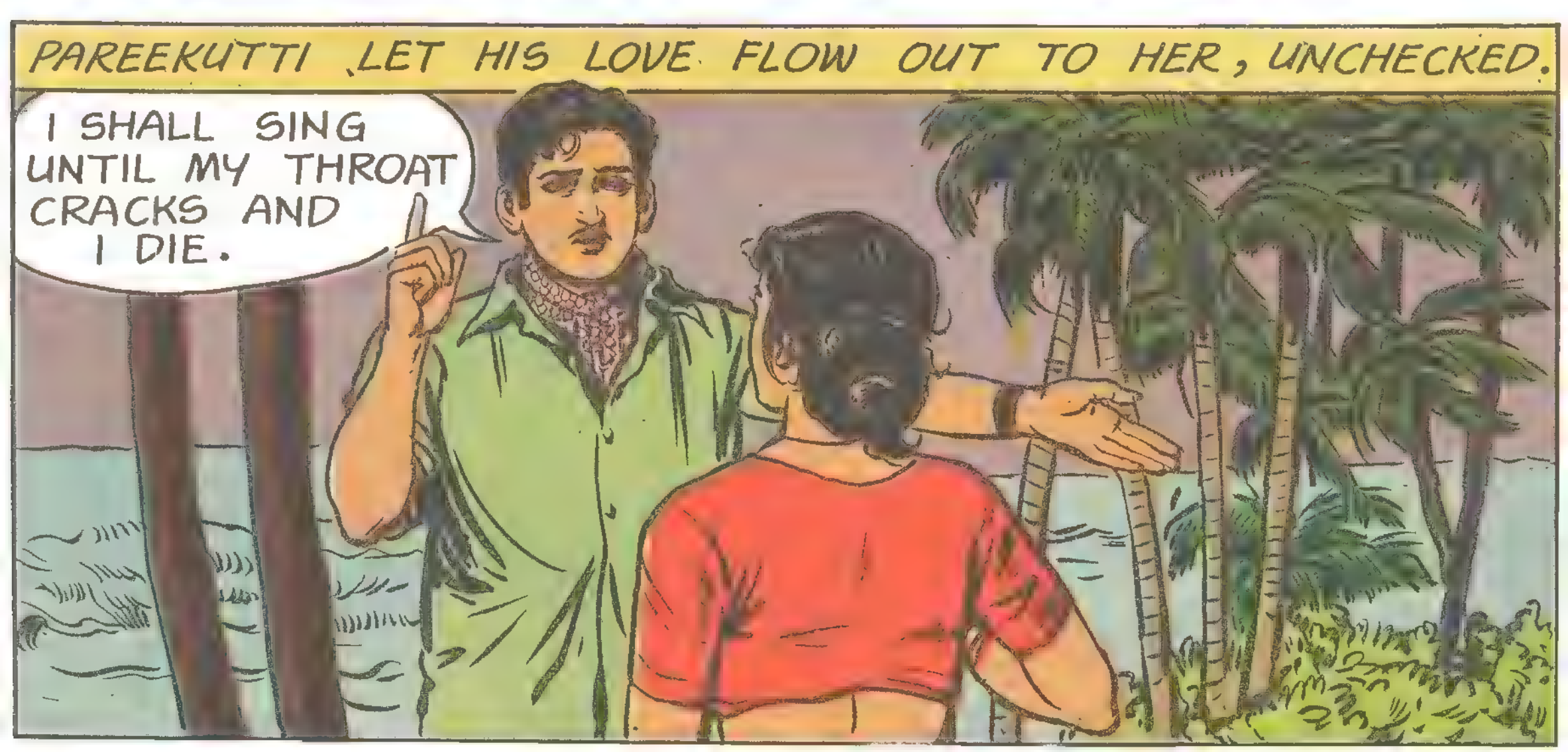
WE WILL RETURN YOUR MONEY SOON.

BUT YOU HAVEN'T BORROWED ANY MONEY FROM ME.

EVEN SO, ONLY AFTER YOUR DEBT HAS BEEN REPAID CAN I GET MARRIED.

SO THIS IS YOUR WAY OF BREAKING OUR RELATIONSHIP. I MUST HAVE NO PART IN YOUR LIFE.


KARUTHAMMA AVOIDED A DIRECT ANSWER.
YOU MUST MARRY A NICE GIRL, HAVE CHILDREN AND PROSPER. AND YOU MUST FORGET ME AND THE DAYS WHEN WE PLAYED TOGETHER AS CHILDREN.
THOSE DAYS ARE ALL OVER NOW. NOW I SHALL BE ALONE ON THIS BEACH. I SHALL SIT HERE AND SING AND SING FOR YOU.


PAREEKUTTI LET HIS LOVE FLOW OUT TO HER, UNCHECKED.
I SHALL SING UNTIL MY THROAT CRACKS AND I DIE.

THEY WERE GOING THEIR SEPARATE WAYS AND NOTHING HE SAID WOULD CHANGE THAT. KARUTHAMMA RESPONDED WITH THE DESPAIR OF HOPELESS LOVE—
AND I SHALL DIE OF A BROKEN HEART, AND THEN TWO SOULS WILL HAUNT THIS BEACH IN THE MOONLIGHT.

THE WEDDING OF KARUTHAMMA HAD AN INAUSPICIOUS BEGINNING. THE HEADMAN, IN HIS GREED, DEMANDED AN UNFAIR AMOUNT OF MONEY FROM PALANI FOR TAKING KARUTHAMMA AWAY. PAPPU, A MEMBER OF THE BRIDEGROOM'S PARTY, RETALIATED.

I KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS GIRL. SHE IS NOT A GOOD GIRL AND WILL BRING RUIN TO OUR VILLAGE.

CHAKKI COLLAPSED. KARUTHAMMA CRIED.

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE SPOKEN LIKE THAT AT SUCH A TIME.

HE IS A GREEDY DEVIL AND MUST BE TAUGHT A LESSON.

THE EXCITEMENT DIED DOWN AND THE CEREMONY WAS COMPLETED.

BUT THERE WAS FRESH TROUBLE. CHAKKI'S ILLNESS SEEMED TO BE SERIOUS. KUNJU WANTED KARUTHAMMA TO STAY BACK AND NURSE HER.

I'LL STAY UNTIL YOU FEEL BETTER.

DON'T. PEOPLE WILL SAY THAT YOU COULDN'T BEAR TO LEAVE PAREEKUTTI.

KARUTHAMMA HAD NO ANSWER TO THAT. SHE HAD TO GO. KUNJU, WILFUL AND ARROGANT AS EVER, WAS FURIOUS.

SHE CAN'T EVEN STAY TO LOOK AFTER HER SICK MOTHER! SHE IS NOT MY DAUGHTER ANY LONGER.

WHAT A WAY TO BEGIN MARRIED LIFE!

KARUTHAMMA LEFT, ALONE IN HER GRIEF. NO ONE PRAYED FOR HER AND HER OWN HEART SEEMED TOO EMPTY FOR PRAYER.

KARUTHAMMA WALKED INTO A HOME, BARE OF EVEN THE DAILY NECESSITIES. THE NEIGHBOURS TALKED.

SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF A MAN WHO OWNS TWO BOATS. WHY THEN DID HE GIVE HER AWAY TO SOMEONE LIKE PALANI?

SHE MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING WRONG. AND HER GUILT WILL BRING RUIN TO OUR SHORES.

BUT KARUTHAMMA WAS DETERMINED TO BE A GOOD WIFE. IN THE AFTERNOON—

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME TOO MUCH RICE.

I CAN EAT WHAT IS LEFT OVER.

WHAT ARE THE THINGS YOU NEED?

WE MUST BUY SOME POTS AND PANS.

YOUTH AND PROXIMITY DID THE REST. THEIR YOUNG LOVE WAS WARM AND FULL OF PASSION. ONE EVENING, PALANI BROUGHT HER A GIFT OF CLOTHING.

WHEN YOU FISH, DO YOU NET FINE CLOTHES?

THE FESTIVAL OF AYILYAM AT MANNARASHALA IS APPROACHING. I WANT YOU TO LOOK BEAUTIFUL.

BUT THROUGH ALL THIS, THE THOUGHT OF HOME NAGGED HER, EATING INTO THEIR HAPPINESS.

I WANT TO SEE MY MOTHER, WHO WAS VERY ILL WHEN WE LEFT HER.

YOUR MOTHER OR PAREEKUTTI?

IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF A RIFT BETWEEN THEM.

KARUTHAMMA WENT ABOUT HER DUTIES IN A DAZE. STRANGE FEARS, TO WHICH SHE COULD NOT GIVE A NAME, BESET HER.

KATALAMMA, ALL I WANT IS TO LIVE AND DIE LIKE OTHER FISHER-WOMEN. IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?

THE NEXT DAY, PALANI SEEMED VERY TROUBLED. HE ROWED HARD WITH BRISK STROKES. WHEN THE BOAT HAD GONE TOO FAR...

HAVE YOU GONE MAD?

YOU HAVE BEEN SADDLED WITH A BAD WOMAN, AND NOW YOU WANT TO DROWN YOURSELF. BUT WE HAVE WIVES AND CHILDREN!

PALANI SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED AT THE HELM ANY MORE.

YES. SOME DEVIL HAS POSSESSED HIM.

IN KARUTHAMMA'S HOME —

KARUTHAMMA SHOULD HAVE VISITED US ON THE FOURTH DAY AFTER THE WEDDING. GO AND BRING HER AND PALANI.

I SHALL NOT GO. I DON'T WANT HER TO COME TO MY HOUSE.

IN TRIKUNNAPUZHA, KARUTHAMMA ONCE AGAIN RAISED THE QUESTION OF GOING HOME.

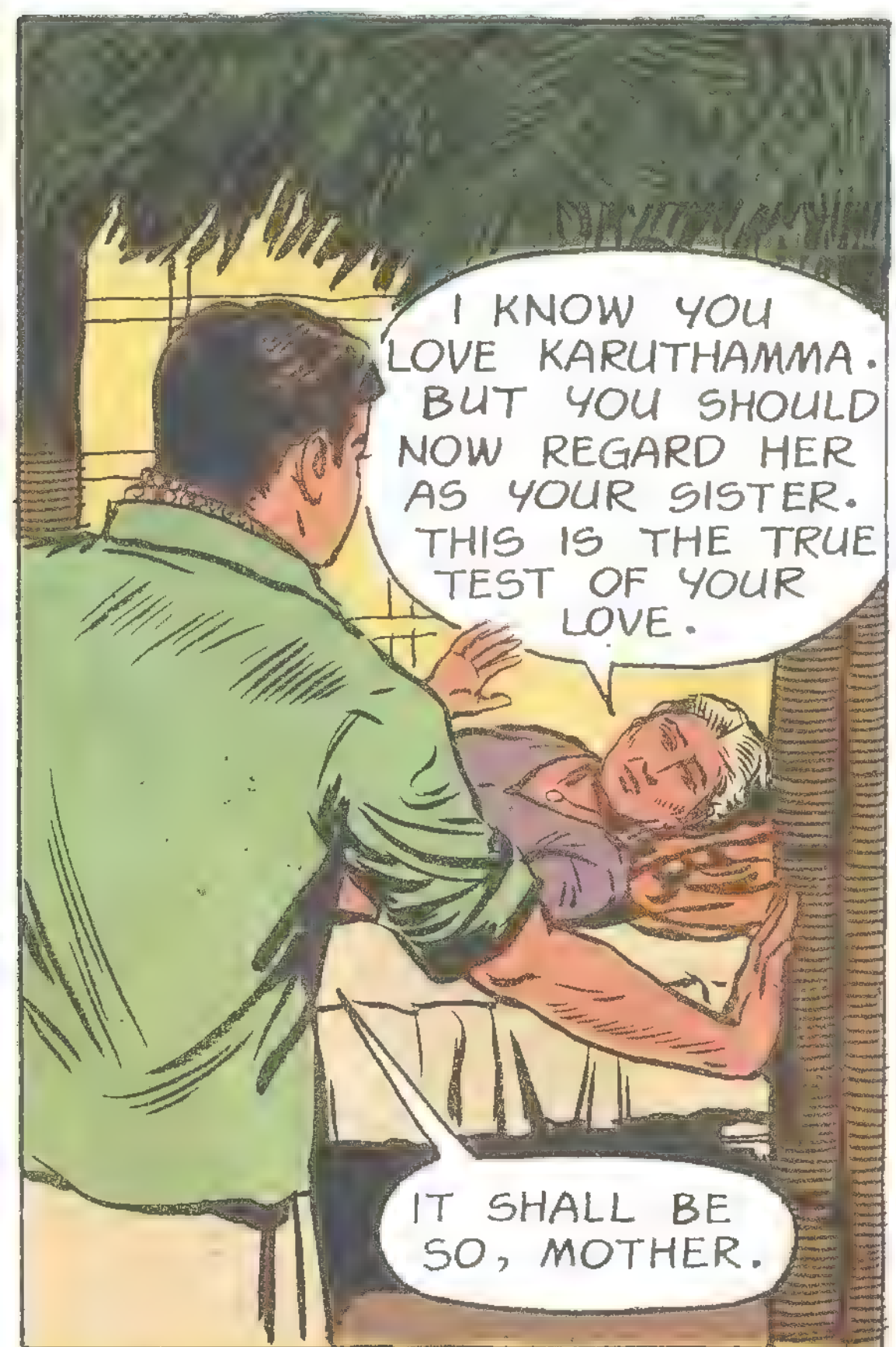
WHY WON'T YOU TAKE ME HOME?

YOU MAY GO, BUT YOU NEED NOT COME BACK.

CHAKKI WAS GETTING WORSE. PAREEKUTTI, HEARING OF IT, WENT TO SEE HER.

I AM DYING, SON. AND YET MY HUSBAND WON'T BRING MY CHILD. I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER.

DON'T WORRY. PALANI IS A GOOD BOY. HE WILL TAKE CARE OF HER.



IT WAS A STRANGE PLEDGE, BUT SACRED NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN MADE TO A DYING WOMAN.

THE QUESTION OF SENDING WORD TO KARUTHAMMA AROSE AFTER THE LAST RITES.

HAVE YOU SENT SOMEONE TO FETCH THE GIRL?

THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT. HER CALLOUSNESS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHAKKI'S DEATH.

PAREEKUTTI TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO INFORM KARUTHAMMA. ON REACHING HER HOUSE —

KARUTHAMMA, OPEN THE DOOR! I HAVE SERIOUS NEWS FOR YOU.

NO. NO. MY HUSBAND IS NOT AT HOME. I WON'T OPEN THE DOOR. I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU.

I AM YOUR BROTHER NOW. THAT WAS YOUR MOTHER'S LAST WISH. AND SHE IS NO MORE.

KARUTHAMMA CRIED OUT ALOUD IN HER ANGUISH. BY THE TIME THE NEIGHBOURS ARRIVED, PAREEKUTTI HAD LEFT.

PALANI FOUND HER NUMB WITH GRIEF.

WHO CAME TO TELL YOU?

MY MOTHER IS DEAD.

PAREEKUTTI.

COULDN'T THEY FIND ANOTHER FISHERMAN IN THE VILLAGE TO BRING YOU THIS MESSAGE?

DO YOU SUSPECT ME ?

I DON'T KNOW. TELL ME — WHAT IS HE TO YOU ?

EVEN AS SHE TOLD HIM, SHE KNEW THE WORDS SOUNDED STRANGE.

WE GREW UP ON THE BEACH TOGETHER AS CHILDREN. HE IS MY BROTHER NOW.

YOUR PAST WILL ALWAYS BE A BLOT ON OUR MARRIED LIFE.

THEY TRIED TO FORGET THEIR PAST, TO MAKE SOMETHING OF THEIR TROUBLED LIVES.

MY EARNINGS HAVE BECOME VERY MEAGRE.

DON'T WORRY. BETTER DAYS WILL COME.

MAY I GO EAST TO SELL FISH FROM TOMORROW?

ALL RIGHT, YOU MAY GO.

FOUR DAYS LATER, THERE WAS A NOISY ROW ON THE SEAFRONT.

THIS WRETCHED WOMAN HAS TAKEN AWAY SOME OF MY CUSTOMERS.

SHE GETS CUSTOMERS BECAUSE SHE IS SUCH A FLIRT.

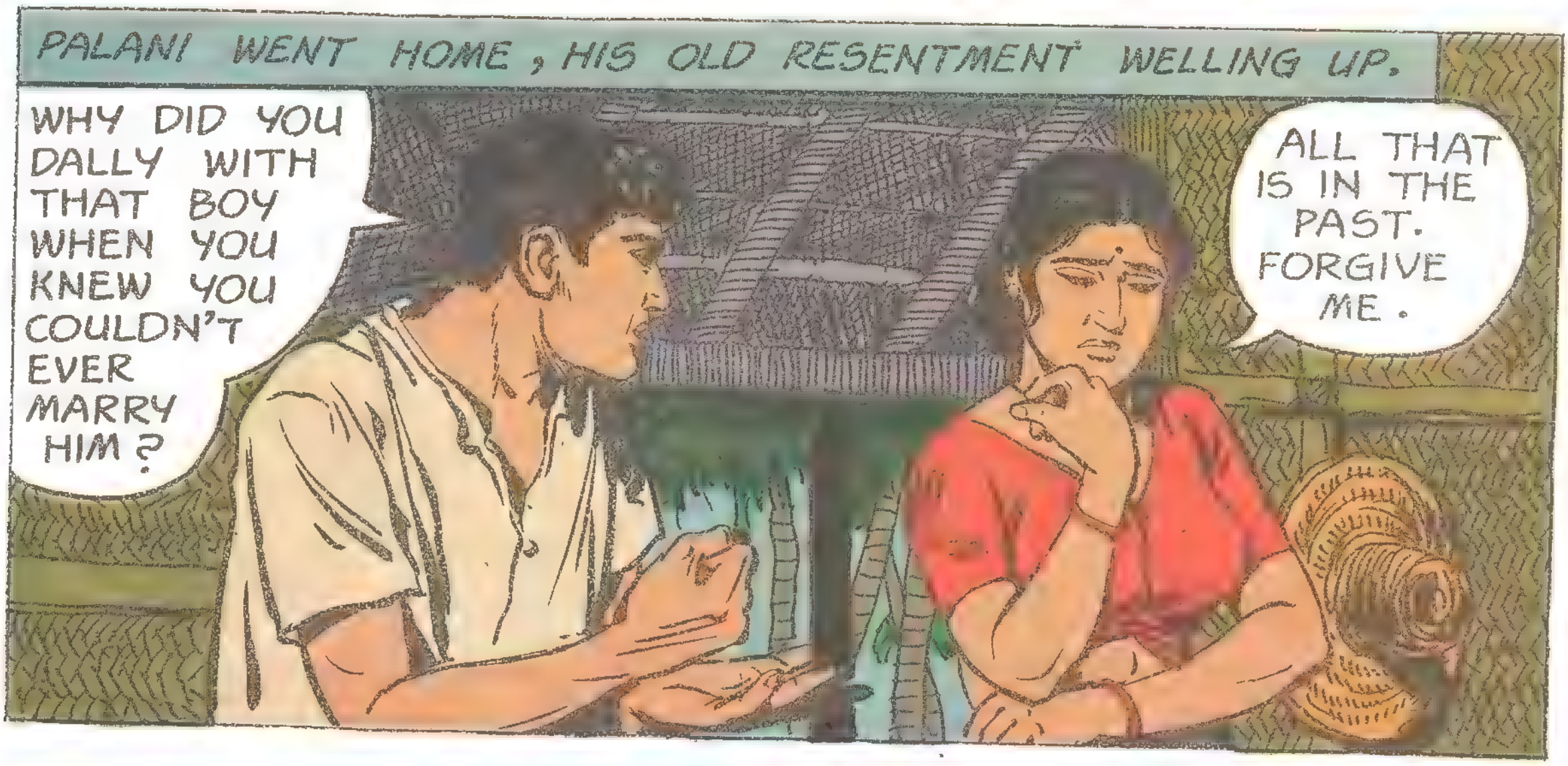
IDLE TONGUES WAGGED CEASELESSLY. HER PAST WAS DRAGGED INTO THE OPEN AND DISCUSSED.

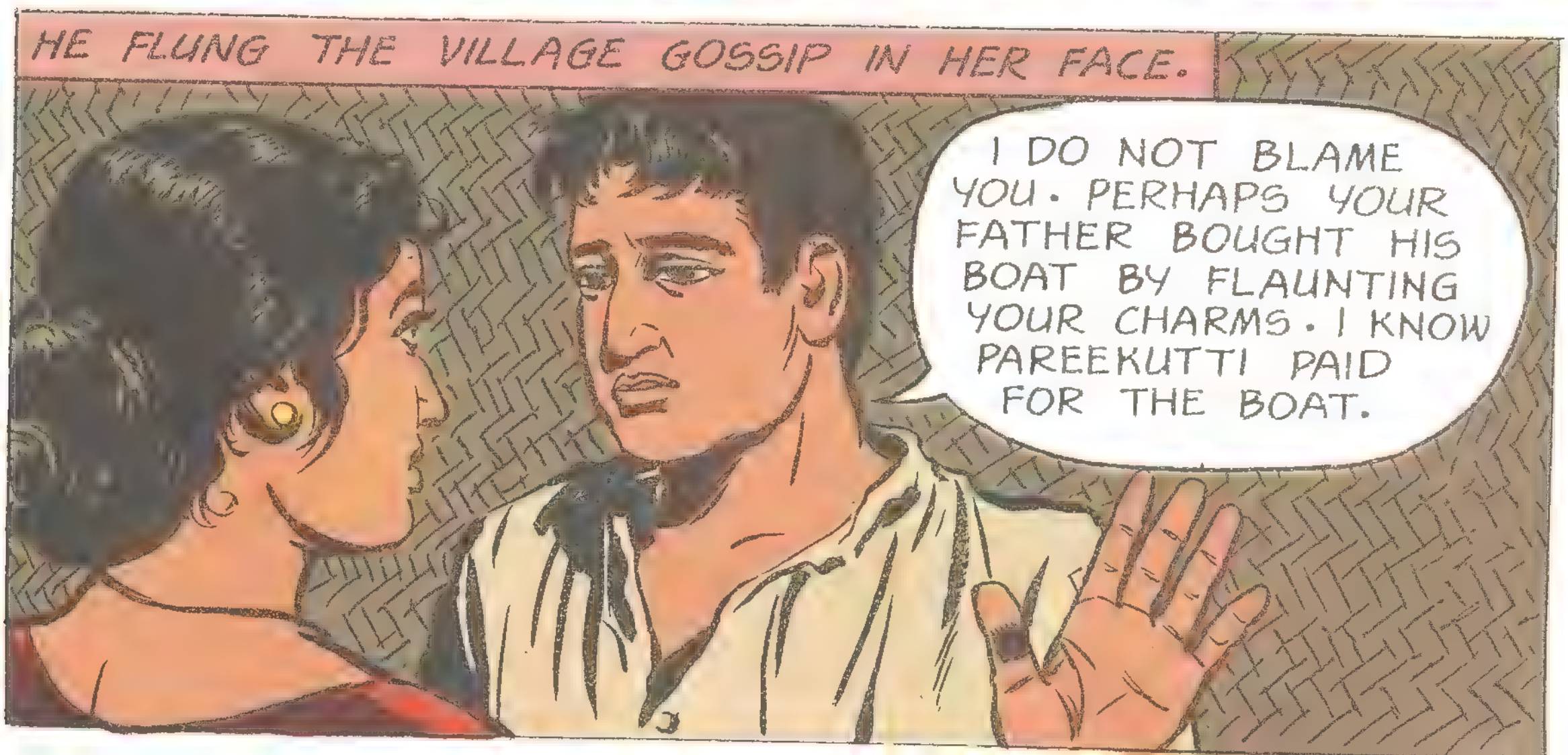
THEY SAY THAT THE MUSLIM BOY VISITS HER EVEN NOWADAYS.

SHE WILL BRING RUIN TO THE VILLAGE.

WORD GOT ROUND TO PALANI'S EMPLOYER.
I CANNOT HAVE YOU WORK FOR ME.
WHY ? AM I NOT GOOD ENOUGH ?

IT IS NOT THAT. YOU SEE, YOUR WIFE...
THAT IS A LIE. SHE IS NOT A BAD WOMAN. I KNOW IT.
BUT HIS EMPLOYER SHOWED NO MERCY.


PALANI WENT HOME, HIS OLD RESENTMENT WELLING UP.
WHY DID YOU DALLY WITH THAT BOY WHEN YOU KNEW YOU COULDN'T EVER MARRY HIM ?
ALL THAT IS IN THE PAST. FORGIVE ME.


HE FLUNG THE VILLAGE GOSSIP IN HER FACE.
I DO NOT BLAME YOU. PERHAPS YOUR FATHER BOUGHT HIS BOAT BY FLAUNTING YOUR CHARMS. I KNOW PAREEKUTTI PAID FOR THE BOAT.

KARUTHAMMA SWALLOWED IT ALL.

HOW WILL WE LIVE NOW? SHALL I GO AGAIN TO SELL FISH?

NO. I BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE I THOUGHT I COULD SUPPORT YOU.

THERE WAS A DANGEROUS NOTE IN HIS VOICE.

BUT FROM NOW ON YOU MUST LIVE STRICTLY ACCORDING TO OUR CUSTOMS.

I WILL NOT STRAY FROM THE RIGHT PATH AGAIN.

FOR A WHILE THEY WERE HAPPY.

I MUST GET A SMALL BOAT. THEN I WON'T NEED TO WORK FOR ANYONE.

SELL MY ORNAMENTS.

BUT TO SELL YOUR POSSESSIONS...

AM I THEN A SEPARATE BEING?

AND PALANI STARTED GOING OUT TO SEA IN HIS BOAT. ONE EVENING, WHEN HE RETURNED, HE SAW SOME WOMEN STANDING AROUND KARUTHAMMA.
YOUR WIFE HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO A BABY GIRL.
I WISH IT WERE A BOY!
WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHETHER IT IS A BOY OR A GIRL?
MY DAUGHTER MUST NOT GROW UP TO BE ANOTHER KARUTHAMMA.

SOME DAYS LATER—

YOUR FATHER HAS MARRIED AGAIN.

HOW WILL HIS NEW WIFE TREAT PANCHAMI? I WANT TO GO AND SEE MY SISTER.

... OR PAREEKUTTI?

HAVE IT YOUR WAY. I'LL NEVER AGAIN GO TO MY VILLAGE.

NEWS OF HOME GREW MORE DISTURBING. PANCHAMI WAS NOT ADJUSTING TO HER STEP-MOTHER.

YOUR FATHER HAS THROWN HIS WIFE OUT OF THE HOUSE.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT PANCHAMI.

CONFUSED AND UNHAPPY, PANCHAMI WENT TO SEE KARUTHAMMA.

FATHER HAS GONE MAD. HE DOES NOT LISTEN TO ANYONE.

ONE DAY, PAREEKUTTI WAS CONFRONTED BY A HALF-MAD KUNJU.

HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?

I DON'T REMEMBER.

YOU GAVE ME THE MONEY WITH AN EYE ON MY DAUGHTER, DIDN'T YOU? DO YOU REALIZE THE HARM YOU HAVE DONE?

KUNJU LAUGHED — A LAUGH THAT SENT A CHILL DOWN PAREEKUTTI'S SPINE. IT WAS LIKE THE LAUGHTER OF DEATH.

YOU BROKE UP A FAMILY. RUINED ME. WELL, HERE IS THE MONEY YOU GAVE ME. TAKE IT.

IN TRIKUNNAPUZHA, THE TWO SISTERS TALKED ENDLESSLY OF HOME. SEEING PANCHAMI HAD REVIVED OLD MEMORIES.

ALL AT ONCE, EVERYTHING BECAME SHARP AND CLEAR TO KARUTHAMMA. THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO HIDE, NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF...

DID YOU LOVE HIM?

YES, I LOVED HIM.

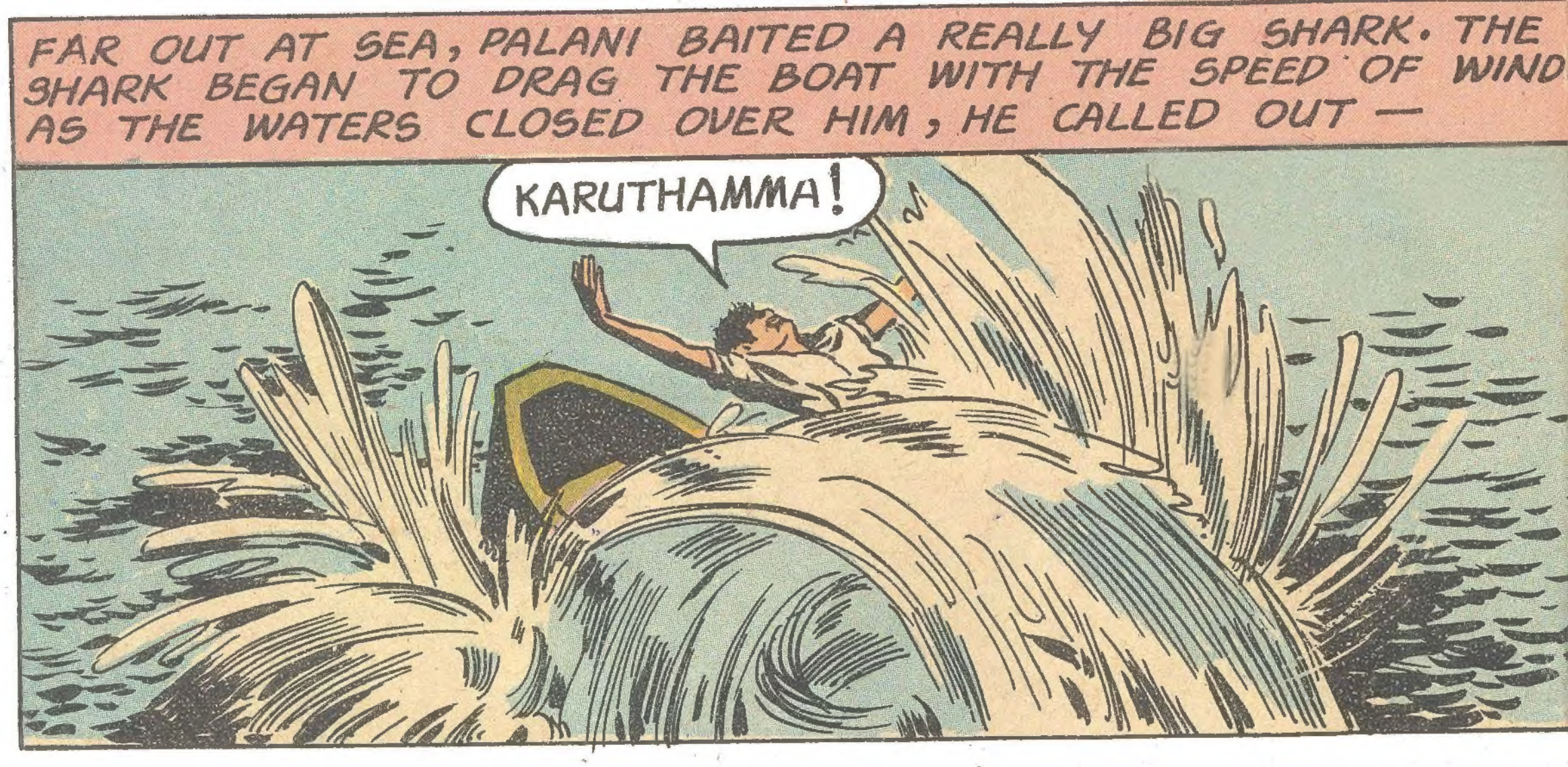
WHEN WILL YOU MEET AGAIN?

I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT MEETING HIM AGAIN.

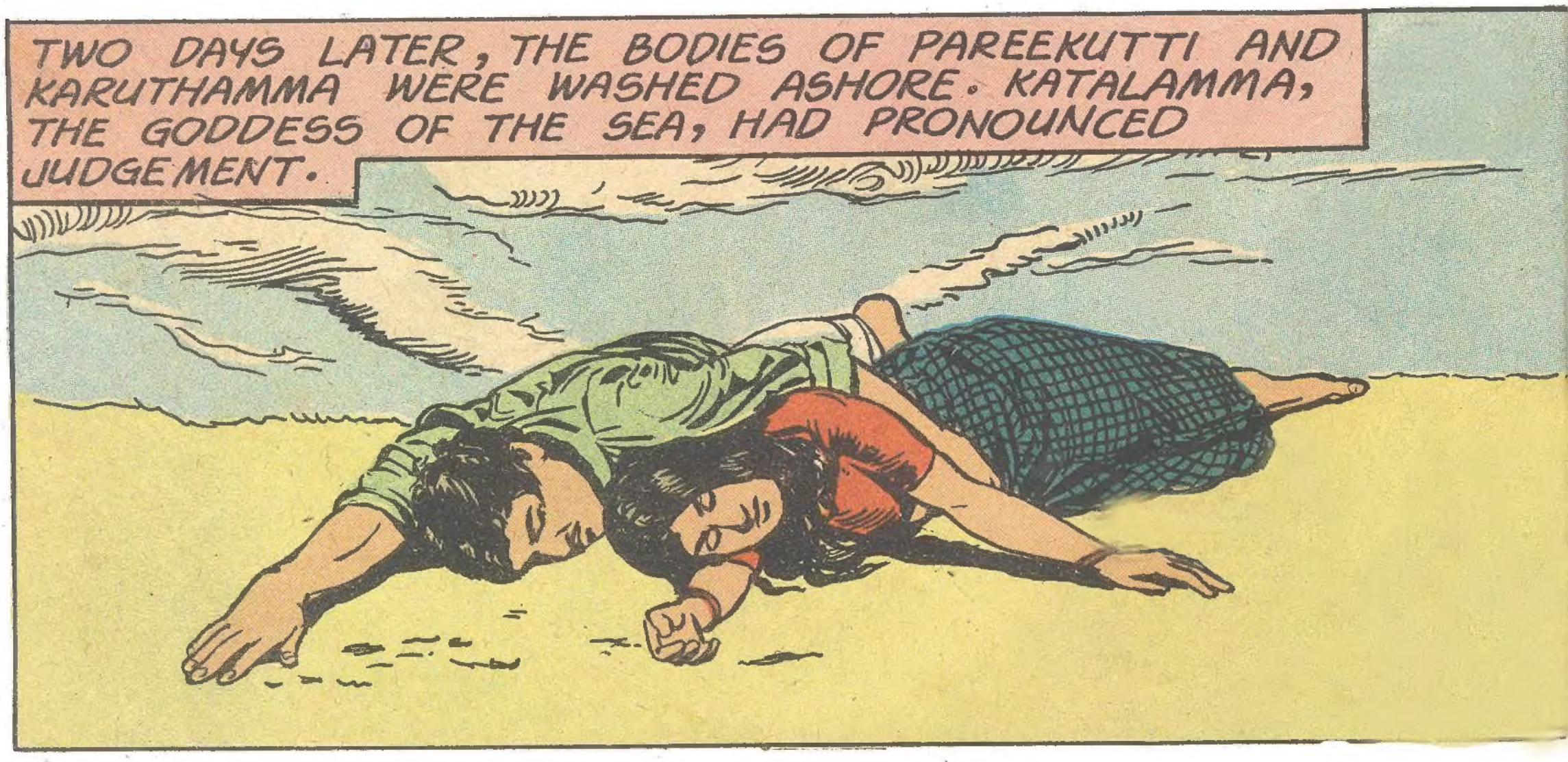
BUT KARUTHAMMA HAD NOT ALLOWED FOR FATE'S STRANGE WAYS. AFTER PALANI HAD PUT OUT TO SEA THE NEXT DAY, PAREEKUTTI ARRIVED, FULL OF A LOVE THAT COULD NO LONGER BE CRUSHED.

MY KARUTHAMMA, WHAT AM I TO YOU?

EVERYTHING.


FAR OUT AT SEA, PALANI BAITED A REALLY BIG SHARK. THE SHARK BEGAN TO DRAG THE BOAT WITH THE SPEED OF WIND AS THE WATERS CLOSED OVER HIM, HE CALLED OUT —
KARUTHAMMA!

ON SHORE, TWO HELPLESS HUMAN BEINGS HAD CEASED TO STRUGGLE AGAINST THEIR FATAL EMOTIONS. LIKE A RIVER THAT BURSTS ITS BOUNDS, THEIR LOVE BROKE FREE, DROWNING THE VOICE OF GOOD SENSE.


TWO DAYS LATER, THE BODIES OF PAREEKUTTI AND KARUTHAMMA WERE WASHED ASHORE. KATALAMMA, THE GODDESS OF THE SEA, HAD PRONOUNCED JUDGEMENT.

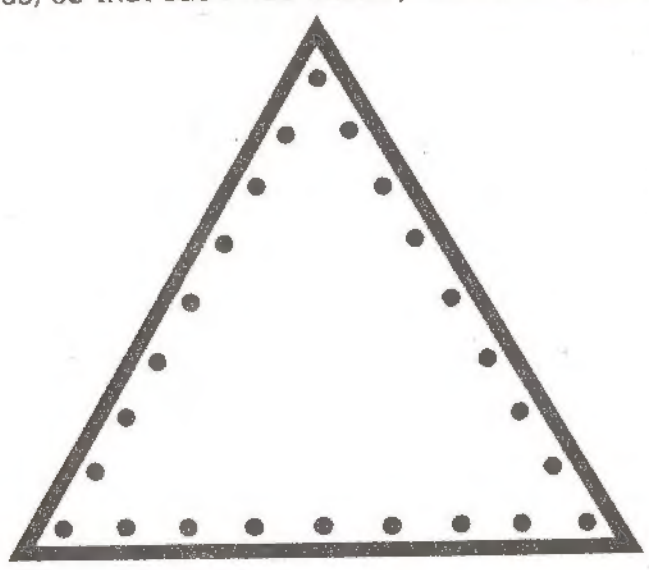
CHATURANG KATHA launched its programme of pictorial classics for young and old with PADMAVATI. Since then we have added four more titles based on literary, folk and regional classics—HAMSAVALI, LILA AND CHANESAR, VIRVAR and THE STRANGE SACRIFICE.

Due to overwhelming public demand, CHATURANG KATHA has now gone into full colour, crown quarto size (17½ cms x 24 cms). Every title from THE STRANGE SACRIFICE onwards will come to you in this new format.

You may look forward to many more titles in this series which we will try and bring out at the rate of one title a month.

FUN WITH GEMS

Four hikers were to sleep out in the open on a triangular ground as shown below. How did they divide the ground with just 3 straight lines, so that each had exactly the same space?



Answer: By joining the centre points of each of the 3 sides to form another triangle inside.

Cadbury's MILK CHOCOLATE GEMS

COLOURFUL CHOCOLATE-CENTRED GEMS

Cadbury's GEMS – THE FUN FOOD FOR CHILDREN